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FEB 20 2004

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
K. Garza et al.

Serial No.: 09/960,445

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: Method of Kick Detection and Cuttings Bed
Buildup Detection Using a Drilling Tool

Group Art Unit: 2878

Examiner: C. Hannaher

Atty. Dkt. No.: 19.0302

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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Introductory Comments

In response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, please enter the following amendments. Specifically, Applicants herein amend claims 1, 10 and 15 in order to more clearly claim the disclosed invention. New claims 24-27 have been added. Currently, claims 1-4 and 7-27 remain under consideration.

A new declaration is included which correctly identifies all listed inventors.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any document referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

Pam Rahmatdoust 2/17/04
Pam Rahmatdoust Date